



Guidelines for Grant Seekers

Due Date: January 31, 2025

Application Link (opens 11/15): <https://www.grant-interface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=peacefund>

Questions will be uploaded as a PDF on our website as of 11/14.

Grantmaking Philosophy

The Peace Development Fund makes grants to community-based organizations working for social justice. We believe that the change in values needed to establish a more just and peaceful world can come about only if it is strongly rooted in local communities that value the importance of building movements to create systemic social change. These are communities that view everyone, especially young people, as a vital force in the transformation of society. We recognize young people's ability to reshape our society, not only politically, but also spiritually and culturally.

The Peace Development Fund is committed to supporting organizations and projects that recognize that peace will never be sustained unless it is based on justice. We understand peace to be a consequence of equitable relationships—with our fellow human beings and with the natural environment of which we are a part and on which we depend.

What We Fund – Our 4 Pillars of Grantmaking

Organizing to Shift Power:

- Groups that are creating a power base that can hold leaders accountable to the people who are affected by their decisions.
- Groups that let their membership or constituents take the lead in collective action-planning and decision-making.
- Groups whose leadership comes directly from the people who are most affected by the issues you are organizing around.

Working to Build a Movement:

- Groups that organize in the local community but make connections between local issues and a broader need for systemic change.
- Groups that provide a space for members to develop their political analyses at the same time as taking action for change.
- Groups that break down barriers within the progressive movement, by building strategic alliances between groups of different cultural or class backgrounds or different issue areas.
- Groups that explore the root causes of injustice and have a long-term vision for the kind of social change they are working for.

Dismantling Oppression:

- Groups and projects that are proactively engaged in a process of dismantling oppression, confronting privilege and challenging institutional structures that perpetuate oppression (both internal and external to the organization).
- Groups that are proactively making connections between the different forms of oppression (racism, heterosexism, sexism, ageism, classism, ableism, etc.), and its connections with injustice.

Creating New Structures:

- Groups that have alternative organizational structures, allowing power to flow “from the bottom up.”
- Efforts to create new, community-based alternative systems and structures (economic, political, cultural, religious, etc.) that are liberating, democratic, and environmentally sustainable and which promote healthy, sustainable communities.

Note: The most competitive applications will deeply embody ALL of these funding priorities

What We Do Not Fund

- **We do not fund programs with a primary geographic focus *OUTSIDE* of the United States, U.S. Territories, Mexico and Haiti.**
- **Organizations with budgets larger than \$250,000.**
- Organizations not directly engaged in community organizing,
- Social services, educational programs, or research that are not linked to a clear organizing strategy.
- Individuals or organizations with strong leadership from only one individual.
- Conferences, trainings, and other one-time events.
- Academic institutions and scholarships.
- Other grantmaking organizations (unless they are your fiscal sponsor).
- Lobbying activities.

Grantmaking Funds at PDF

PDF oversees several grant programs that have specific purposes.

- **Seeding the Movement Fund** – A highly competitive national grant opportunity for organizations that fulfill all the funding priorities listed above.
Typical Grant Range: \$2,500-\$7,500
- **Braiding New Worlds Fund** – A fund focused on supporting organizations engaged in youth-led organizing and that fulfill all the funding priorities listed above. Grant allocation is recommended by a committee of youth organizers.
Typical Grant Range: \$2,500-\$5,000
- **Western Mass Transformation Fund**- A fund open to organizations in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties in Massachusetts, qualified under the funding priorities listed above. Grant allocation is recommended by a committee of local community members.
Typical Grant Range: \$500-\$3,000

General Support vs. Project Support:

All Community Organizing PDF Grants are offered for general operating support, and those grants are our priority. We believe that the people on the ground know how best to spend the money.

Organizations without Tax-Exempt (501c3) Status:

*It is **not** necessary to have tax-exempt status to apply for a PDF grant.* However, all grant funds must be used only to support activities that further the exempt purposes and activities of PDF, and grant recipients must submit reports to PDF as required by the grant contract.

Each applicant organization or the applicant’s fiscal sponsor must have a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Frequency and Number of Grants:

PDF grants are one-time grants without any guarantee of renewal. If a group has received three, sequential COG Programs grants they must wait at least two years before applying for these funds. PDF typically does not provide multi-year grants or commitments.

Use of Application Forms and all Future Reports:

The Peace Development Fund is not endowed and each year must raise all grantmaking funds. The information provided in this application, on reference calls, as well as in all subsequent reports, may be shared with our donors and/or used in our publications and outreach. If you would prefer that we do not share your information with our donors or in our publications and outreach, please let us know.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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